

Projects Supported for NOS...

- ✦ Establishing NOS Priorities in the PPBES Process
- ✦ Getting Your Feet Wet Briefing Book
- ✦ NOS Gulf of Mexico Partnership Projects
- ✦ NOS Employees Orientation Slide Presentation
- ✦ NOS Senior Management Council Strategic Planning
- ✦ NOS Social Science Plan
- ✦ NOS Web Site
- ✦ National Survey on Recreation and the Environment
- ✦ Social Science Scientific and Technical Support
- ✦ Spatial Trends in Coastal Socioeconomics (STICS)
- ✦ U.S. Caribbean Summit-to-Sea Watershed Assessment
- ✦ Web Hosting

Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services

- ✦ Quality Assurance of Real-Time Ocean Data Workshop

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

- ✦ National Status and Trends Data Portal

National Geodetic Survey

- ✦ National Shoreline Data Content Standard

National Marine Sanctuary Program

- ✦ Coastal Studies Institute Board of Directors Planning Workshop
- ✦ Sanctuary Program Annual Operating Plan Web-enabled Database
- ✦ Online Sanctuary Permitting, Reporting and Evaluation System
- ✦ Resource and Undersea Threats Database
- ✦ Socioeconomic Monitoring

NOAA Coastal Services Center

- ✦ NOS Data Explorer

Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

- ✦ Coos Bay Stakeholder Workshop
- ✦ Marine Protected Area Evaluation Training in the Caribbean
- ✦ U.S. Marine Managed Areas Inventory
- ✦ Wilmington Special Area Management Plan

Office of Coast Survey

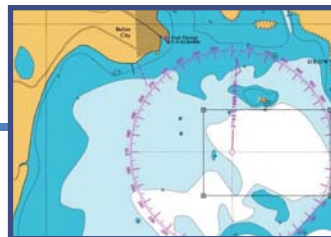
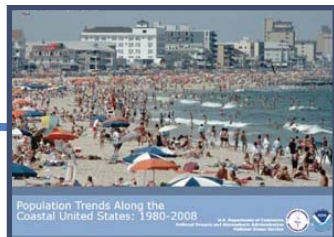
- ✦ Gulf of Honduras: Enhancing Navigational Safety Initiative
- ✦ Protecting Corals, Saving Ships Project

Office and Response and Restoration

- ✦ Portfields Initiative
- ✦ Marine Debris Program Web Site

About Special Projects

Special Projects, a unit within the NOS Management and Budget Office, offers technical and discipline-based support services that fall outside the expertise or resources of NOS Program Offices, creating a “quick response” capability for NOS to take advantage of high-priority opportunities. A primary purpose of Special Projects is to enable NOS and NOAA to quickly respond to new opportunities or special needs that are important to meeting the mission of the agency.



<http://specialprojects.nos.noaa.gov/>

nos special projects

FY '05 Accomplishments



“Enhancing the performance and capacity of NOAA’s Ocean Service through strategic problem solving, integration, and innovation.”

Fiscal year 2005 was a busy and productive year for the NOAA’s Ocean Service (NOS) Special Projects team. Special Projects staff worked with a number of major NOAA-wide efforts, the NOS Office of the Assistant Administrator, NOS Program and Staff Offices, and the Ecosystem Mission Goal Team and three of its programs. Staff worked on over 50 projects, resulting in nearly 100 products or services rendered.

One of the most important accomplishments in fiscal year 2005 was the successful incorporation of NOS’s Web services group, the Technical Information Services Branch (or TISB), into Special Projects. The addition of TISB to Special Projects has created an extremely robust, integrated Web site development, production, and maintenance capability for NOS.

This document summarizes accomplishments of the Special Projects office during fiscal year 2005, and presents a general overview of the clients served and services provided during the year. For the full version of the Special Projects Fiscal Year 2005 Accomplishments Report, as well as additional details about Special Projects products and services, please visit us online at:

<http://specialprojects.nos.noaa.gov/>.

2005 Accomplishments by Primary Client...

Services for NOAA...

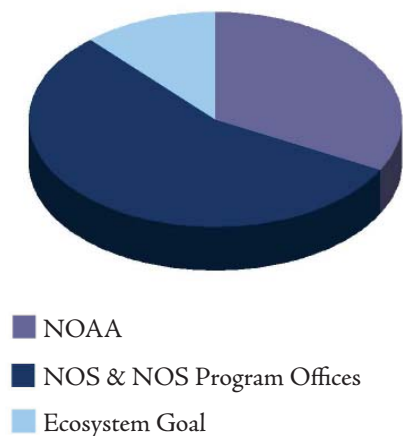
During fiscal year 2005, Special Projects supported 17 NOAA-wide projects. Over 30 products or services were rendered in association with these projects, including seven Web sites, six facilitated work sessions, and six databases or Web applications. Three key NOAA projects are highlighted below.

NOAA's Incident Command Center Support. Following Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, Special Projects supported the NOAA Incident Command Center by producing daily maps for each storm event. The maps showed the locations of the storms and NOAA facilities and observation platforms.

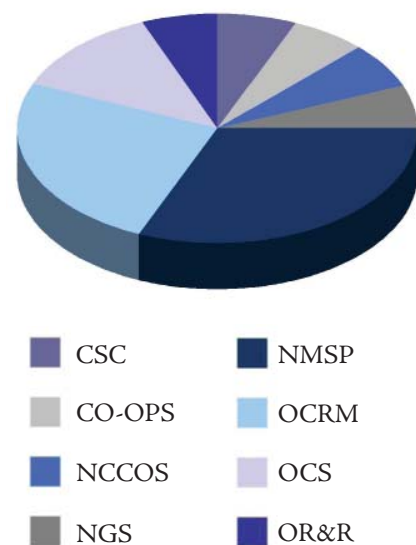
Gulf of Mexico Alliance Support. Special Projects worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and federal partners to coordinate federal support for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, which is a regional partnership focusing on coastal issues identified by the Gulf States.

The Ocean Science Initiative. The Ocean Science Initiative is a partnership of the Smithsonian Institution and NOAA that seeks to enhance ocean literacy. Special Projects represented NOS in the on-going development of the associated Ocean Hall exhibit. NOS/ Special Projects is also leading NOAA in developing the Ocean Hall Web Portal and Ocean News Kiosk, for which planning started in 2005.

2005 Project Distribution by Primary Client



2005 Project Distribution by NOS Program Office



Services for NOS...

In 2005, Special Projects contributed to 29 projects that directly benefited NOS, including the NOS Office of the Assistant Administrator and eight of the ten NOS Program and Staff Offices. Nearly 60 products or services were rendered in association with these projects, including approximately four Web sites, nine databases or Web applications, 13 reports, and 16 facilitated work sessions. A few sample projects are summarized below.

NOS Social Science Plan. Special Projects coordinated the development of the NOS Social Science Plan, which represents a comprehensive set of recommendations to build the social science capacity in NOS and to help NOAA achieve its Mission Goals.

Establishing NOS Priorities in the PPBES Process. Special Projects planned and facilitated two workshops to increase the effectiveness by which NOS participates in NOAA's Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution System (PPBES) process, to ensure that NOS priorities are well represented in the NOAA budget.

National Ocean Service Web Site. Special Projects continued to maintain and work with NOS offices to update the official Web site of NOS, which highlights the areas where NOS works to serve the American public.

National Shoreline Data Content Standard. Special Projects worked with the National Geodetic Survey to develop a consistent data model for a National Shoreline Data Content Standard, which will provide a baseline for legal boundaries, nautical charts, and commercial and natural-resource use and management.

2005 Accomplishments by Area of Expertise...

Throughout fiscal year 2005, Special Projects provided support services to NOS and NOAA by offering assistance in six areas of expertise. Sample projects from each area are summarized below.

Planning & Strategy Development

Special Projects served as a critical partner in the overall planning and process design activities associated with the Portfields initiative, which is a NOAA-led federal interagency effort to revitalize port communities, with an emphasis on development of environmentally sound port facilities.

Database & Software Engineering

To help the National Marine Sanctuary Program track issued permits, Special Projects completed the Web application, Online Sanctuary Permitting, Reporting and Evaluation System (OSPRED), which allows the Program to better enter permit information, facilitate the creation and issuance of permits, and analyze permit statistics and trends.

GIS Development

In 2005, Special Projects worked with partners on several enhancements to an inventory of U.S. Marine Managed Areas (MMAs). For example, Special Projects developed and launched the *MMA Inventory Atlas*. This ArcIMS map service allows users to spatially identify and query MMAs throughout the U.S., create custom maps of MMAs, and download data.

Web Site Design, Development, & Support

In response to a request from Capitol Hill to Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) senior management, Special Projects collaborated with OR&R staff to develop a Web site for the Marine Debris Program. Special Projects staff provided support in planning, graphic arts and design, writing styles, content organization, and development of a prototype site.

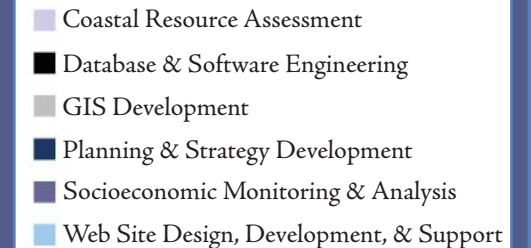
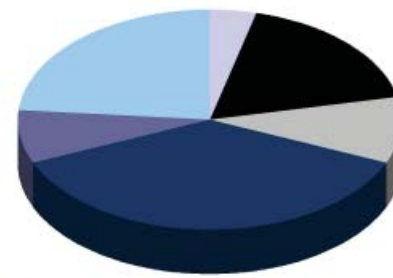
Socioeconomic Monitoring & Analysis

Working in cooperation with several NOS offices, including the NOAA Coastal Services Center, the Office of Coast Survey, and the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, Special Projects created a series of survey "modules" that will be included in the next National Survey on Recreation and the Environment. Special Projects also completed a report based on forecasts of marine-related outdoor recreation from the 2000 survey.

Coastal Resource Assessment

The U.S. Caribbean Summit-to-Sea Watershed Characterization and Assessment is a joint Special Projects, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, and NOAA Coastal Services Center project that uses Landsat imagery to characterize watershed-by-watershed changes. In 2005, Special Projects and partners completed a series of watershed-scale analyses for St. Croix and the Parguera and Vieques regions of Puerto Rico.

2005 Project Distribution by Area of Expertise



Planning & Strategy Development

Action plan development, strategic planning, process design, agenda and workshop design, and meeting facilitation.

Database & Software Engineering

Design, development, and implementation of static and dynamic database and Web applications.

GIS Development

Spatial analysis and remote sensing support, including map production, sophisticated spatial analysis, and creation of Web-based interactive mapping sites.

Web Site Design, Development, & Support

Web site planning, content development, graphic design, technical development and support, and Web site hosting and maintenance.

Socioeconomic Monitoring & Analysis

Marine-related socioeconomic research for a wide variety of applications and geographic areas.

Coastal Resource Assessment

Issue and solution identification, data assembly and synthesis, and product development.